



News Release

NWT Short Track Skater 1st and 2nd After Second Weekend of Canada/China Competition

Harbin, China (March 7, 2008) – Remembering great experiences in the Arctic Winter Games, Michael Gilday has started weekend 2 of the Conematic International Short Track Challenge in Harbin, China on a winning note.

Gilday won the 1500 distance, dealing again with Chinese skaters team skating in an effort to gain advantage. "With three Canadians in the final, the four Chinese weren't able to team up as well as last week when I was the only Canadian in the race," commented Gilday. Canadian skaters finished first, second and fifth in the distance.

The 500 metre final was an all Canadian affair with Gilday winning his heat and semi before finishing the final in second place behind Prince George skater Cory Rasmussen. Rasmussen recently skated with the Yellowknife Speed Skating Club while temporarily working in Yellowknife.

Even though he's skating on the other side of the world, Gilday is keenly aware of next week's Arctic Winter Games. "My first really big meet was in the Games 10 years ago. It was a great opportunity to learn about competition and got me excited about skating. Jill started in the Games as well and she's with me here in China. Go Team NWT!!" says Gilday. "With dedication and hard work you can live your dreams through sport. Both Jill and I wish we could be there to cheer everyone on."

The Harbin competition wraps up tomorrow with the 1000 metre event. Both NWT skaters will return to Canada to prepare for the National team trials later in March in Trois Rivières, Quebec.

The Conematic International Short Track Challenge was created by Conematic Heating of Calgary with the purpose of providing greater international competition and developmental opportunity for Canadian skaters.

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